Number of deep sea fishing vessels|ships

*249. SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI:

DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of vessels|ships with the Government at present for fishing in deep sea;

(b) what is the number of foreign vessels engaged by the Central Government for this purpose;

(c) whether the vessels engaged are sufficient to meet the demand; and

(d) if not, what steps Government propose to take to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (d) While various Government Departments|Institutions have 24 deep sea fishing vessels (20M and above overall length) which are mainly engaged in the survey of fishery resources, training of personnel for deep sea fishing vessels and research, commercial deep sea fishing is generally carried out by vessels owned or chartered by private sector entrepreneurs. As on date, 171 deep sea fishing vessels have been acquired by the entrepreneurs and 84 permits for chartering deep sea fishing vessels are valid. Whenever applications for licences for acquisition of vessels are received they are considered on merits. Fresh applications for charter of vessels were also invited through a Public Notice in August 1989.

Appointment of retired judges as poll watchers

*250. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Election Commission has decided to appoint retired judges as polls watchers in the coming elections; and

(b) if so, what are the powers that are proposed to be given to the retired judges as watchers for ensuring free and fair polls in the country?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Approval of surface design for new brands of cigarettes

*251. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA:

SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the cigarette manufacturers are required to get the surface design approved before introducing any new brand;

(b) whether it is also a fact that according to the guidelines issued by the Central Board of Excise and Customs on the 31st March, 1987, the Director, Audit is required to grant approval of surface design for a new brand within seven days of its submission; and

(c) if so, what are the new brands of cigarettes for which designs have been submitted by the cigarette manufacturers (with names) but were not approved within seven days of their submission by the Director, Audit and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) Yes, Sir. Prior to 20-3-90, cigarette manufacturers were required to get their surface designs approved by Director (Audit) before introducing any new brand of cigarettes in the market. This requirement has been dispensed with from 20-3-90.

(b) Yes, Sir. This is only a guideline and not a statutory requirement.

(c) Details of manufacturers of cigarettes and surface designs not approved within seven days are given below:

Name of the Brand	Length of the cigarette
(i) M/s. G.T.C. Industries Limited	
(a) Gold Flake Deluxe Filter.	69 mm
(b) Panama Special (Plain) .	68 mm
(c) Panama Filter Premium .	69 mm
(ii) N.T.C. Co. Ltd., (New Tobacco Company Ltd.)	
(a) Deluxe Tenor Magnus (Plain)	59 mm
(b) Deluxe Tenor Super (Plain)	59 mm
(iii) ITC Limited	
(a) Gold Flake Honey Dew (Regular Filter) . .	68 mm

As these surface designs appeared to be deceptively similar to other surface designs already approved, Director (Audit) had to conduct necessary enquiries before taking decisions.

सिंचित भूमि का क्षेत्र फल

*252. **श्री राम नरेश यादव :** क्या जल संसाधन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) दिसम्बर, 1989 की स्थिति के अनुसार देश में कुल कृष्य भूमि कितनी है और उसमें से कितना क्षेत्र ऐसा है, जिसके लिए सिंचाई की सुविधाएं उपलब्ध हैं ;

(ख) आगामी तीन वर्षों के दौरान सरकार द्वारा कितने भूमि क्षेत्र के लिए सिंचाई की सुविधाएं उपलब्ध करा दिए जाने का प्रस्ताव है; और

(ग) समस्त कृष्य भूमि को सिंचित बनाने के लिये क्या लक्ष्य तिथि निर्धारित की गयी है ?

जल संसाधन मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री बनुभाई कोटाडिया) : (क) उपलब्ध नवीनतम भूमि उपयोग सांख्यिकी वर्ष 1986–87 (अन्तरिम) के अनुसार, वास्तविक बुआई क्षेत्र लगभग 140 मिलियन हेक्टेयर तथा वास्तविक सिंचित क्षेत्र लगभग 43 मिलियन हेक्टेयर है ।

(ख) आठवीं योजना के प्रस्तावों को अन्तिम रूप नहीं दिया गया है ।

(ग) समस्त कृषि योग्य भूमि को सिंचाई के अंतर्गत लाने का कोई प्रस्ताव नहीं है ।

Appointment of Jyotsna Holding as an agent for import of Phosphates

*253. SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL:

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to an article published in the *Statesman* of the 27th December, 1989 regarding appointment of Jyotsna Holdings as an agent to import Phosphates from Moroccan giant, Office Cherifien des Phosphates and whether Jyotsna Holdings have technical competence to handle fertiliser imports and whether the firm is recognised by Government for the purpose;

(b) how much commission was received by the firm and whether income-tax and foreign exchange regulation provisions were observed; and

(c) what is Government's reaction to the using of MMTC and STC as conduit by the bureaucrats to siphon the clandestine money and what action is proposed in the matter?